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USSR

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INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOR CHIKIN ON PROPOSALS CONCERNING AUSTRIA (1947)

From: MOSCOW

To: LONDON

No.: 215

21 February 1947

[3-part message complete]

[PART I] To CHIKIN[i].

In reply to No. 119[ii].

1.

[50 groups unrecoverable]

Commission[iii] is seeking to achieve an agreed report objectively reflecting the state of the Austrian economy by the end

[50 groups unrecoverable]

in a form in which it would be indicated that all the circumstances were favourable in AUSTRIA, that the work on demilitarisation

[50 groups unrecoverable]

[Continued overleaf]

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sixty-two illegal acts on the French side, be sent as an appendix to the report. On the Soviet side we shall be able to reject this form of report and insist that the section headed "dissenting opinions", in which have ~~would be~~ been included subjects under sections of the report not approved by you and opinions [2 groups unrecovered] discussion, be inserted as an integral part of the report. The proposal from the Soviet side that the first report (on the state of demilitarisation) should begin with a general assessment of the military-economic potential of AUSTRIA is giving rise to strong objections. Taking into consideration the previous discussions and counting on support from the French, the Soviet side submitted at the session of the Allied Council[iii] a shortened text of their own previous proposals on the matter [PART II] in question. In these proposals the following is pointed out:

"1. By the end of the war with HITLER's GERMANY the number of Austrian soldiers and officers in Allied captivity, according to the announcement made by the Austrian Minister of the Interior, Herr HELMER[iv], on 5 August 1946 and 20 January 1947, amounted to 1,200,000, of whom about 820,000 have now returned to AUSTRIA. Taking into account [1 group unrecovered] and persons

[52 groups unrecoverable]

[27 groups unrecovered]

with this [B% proposal]

[45 groups unrecoverable]

under pressure from the British, the French declared that they did not consider it "absolutely necessary" [B% to include] the Soviet proposal in the report, but

[45 groups unrecoverable]

that in the German Army up to 10% were of Austrian [1 group unrecovered] and that during the war the Germans set up military and Air Force installations in AUSTRIA at the expense of the Austrian economy. After lengthy discussion the Soviet proposal, with which - as regards the question of illegality - the French were in agreement, was recorded as a dissenting opinion. On the question of the liquidation of the military-economic potential in AUSTRIA, the Americans, British and French are preparing on their side to start this [1 group unrecovered] [D% liquidation] from 21 February. The Soviet side recorded

[47 groups unrecovered]

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quadripartite check, our side objected to such a decision. On the question of the presence in AUSTRIA at the present time of military and para-military organisations, the Americans and the British [B% consider] that all such organisations have been liquidated.

[35 groups unrecoverable]

of the Austrian Government and to the presence of para-military organisations operating in AUSTRIA at the present time. In view of the disagreement arising between them, the point of view of each

[11 groups unrecoverable]

[PART III] On the question of the quadripartite check, the British and the Americans refused to recognize the fact

[50 groups unrecoverable]

check on the progress of demilitarisation and the liquidation of the military-economic potential. Our proposal, that the absence in the Allied Council of a plan for the liquidation of the military potential of AUSTRIA and also the absence of a quadripartite check on the progress of demilitarisation should be pointed out in the report, was rejected by the British and the Americans. After this the Soviet proposal was recorded as a dissenting opinion. The same kind of discussions also took place when the report on displaced persons was being considered. The British and the Americans categorically opposed our proposal, which was supported by the French, that a political assessment be made of the displaced persons in AUSTRIA, in which it would be shown that a considerable number of them had fought on the side of HITLER's GERMANY or collaborated with the Germans. The Allies refused to include displaced persons from the Baltic [C% regions], the Western UKRAINE and BELORUSSIA in the category of Soviet citizens and placed them in the category of persons neither repatriable

[75 groups unrecoverable]

[quadr]ipartite check, on the basis of which a report can be presented to the Council of Foreign Ministers in MOSCOW[v]. Further, KU[vi]

[47 groups unrecoverable]

incurred by the Austrian government in maintaining displaced persons in AUSTRIA, on the quantity of food supplies

[57 groups unrecoverable]

No. 1030
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SLAVIN[vii]

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- Footnotes: [i] ChIKIN: Dmitrij Filippovich ChIKIN, in the UK from 13 January to 2 March 1947 as a member of the Soviet Delegation to the LONDON Conference of Foreign Ministers' Deputies, at which preparatory work was done on the German and Austrian questions (cf [v]).
- [ii] Not available.
- [iii] Presumably the quadripartite Allied Commission/Allied Council for AUSTRIA.
- [iv] HELMER: Oskar HELMER, Austrian Minister of the Interior from late 1945.
- [v] The Council of Foreign Ministers met in MOSCOW from 10 March to 24 April 1947 to discuss GERMANY and the Austrian peace treaty.
- [vi] KU...: Probably Colonel General Vladimir Vasil'evich KURASOV, Soviet High Commissioner for AUSTRIA 1946-1949.
- [vii] SLAVIN: Lt General Nikolaj Vasil'evich SLAVIN, Chief of the OVS (Department of Foreign Relations) of the PC of Defence/Ministry of Armed Forces, probably from 1945 to 1951.

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